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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC #0498/80
18 January 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Warning Working Group

1. The Warning Working Group met at CIA headquarters on 17 January 1980. In attendance were:

Mr. Lehman, NIO/W
Mr. Kerr, CIA
[redacted] NSA
LTC. Gillispie, Army ACSI
Maj. Rhode, USAF, AFIN
Mr. Martin, State
[redacted] DIA
[redacted] CTS
[redacted] A/NIO/W

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(Military Service representatives attended because of their interest in Alert Memoranda.)

2. A draft "Community Standing Operating Procedures for the Production of Alert Memoranda" was discussed and approved. The chairman agreed to encourage the NIOs to notify their counterparts in other agencies early in the drafting process, this being in addition to NOIWON notification. It was agreed that the draft would be promulgated as an interim procedure over NIO/W signature pending formal NFIB distribution at a later date.

3. The members agreed that the USIB memorandum "Procedures for Alert Memoranda", USIB-D-28.5/12 of 15 December 1975, is in need of revision. The NIO/W opined that it should contain a tutorial on the purpose of an Alert Memorandum, explaining that it is neither a situation report nor an estimate.

4. Mr. Kerr observed that CIA sometimes encounters resistance to writing an Alert Memorandum because events have already been reported elsewhere. This does not obviate the necessity for an Alert Memorandum, which serves a unique purpose, and this point should be made clear in the tutorial.

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5. Mr. Martin questioned whether an Alert Memorandum should lay out serious implications. If so, State would object, as that is a function of policymakers. He then tabled a suggested change to the standard caveat, to wit:

"Its purpose is to ensure that senior policymakers are aware of impending potential developments that may have serious implications for US interests."

After discussion, his proposal was approved and will be reflected in future Alert Memoranda.

6. The Assistant NIO for Warning was tasked to redraft USIB-D-28.5/12 and submit it to the Warning Working Group for comment. The final SOP will become an attachment thereto.



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9. Mr. Lehman announced that either he or MGen. Gorman would be sponsoring an interagency paper on the implications for warning of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Work on terms of reference will begin as soon as the dust settles. All agreed this was a worthwhile project.

10. LTC. Rhode said the Air Force had just completed a paper on the subject and agreed to provide copies to the WWG members.

11. To close the meeting, the NIO/W expressed concern over the increased danger of miscalculation by the Soviets or US in light of recent developments. He charged the members to be more alert than ever.

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Richard Lehman
National Intelligence Officer
for Warning

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